

Southeast Region Team Process for the Development of Fishery Management Plan Actions

Interdisciplinary Plan Teams (IPT)

In the Southeast Region, NMFS and the Councils have developed a team process when working on various fishery management actions. The purpose of the teams is to frontload the fishery management plan process to reduce or eliminate problems that might halt or delay the implementation of various rules and amendments. Key responsibilities of the teams are to:

- Make recommendations on NEPA documentation
- Identify data and analytical needs to support the action
- Refine the purpose and need for the action
- Make recommendations on action alternatives that represent a reasonable range for consideration
- Write and review amendments and supporting documentation.
- Responds to Council instructions on document content

Note: Depending on timing, some steps may be skipped to ensure timely submission of documents.

IPT Staff Composition

- Mandatory staff**
- Council staff
 - SERO staff from SF, Habitat, PR (as appropriate)
 - NEPA Coordinator
 - SEFSC staff
 - GCSE staff
 - Headquarters SF
- Optional staff (dependent on type of action)**
- Permits
 - Enforcement
 - USCG

IPT Team Leaders

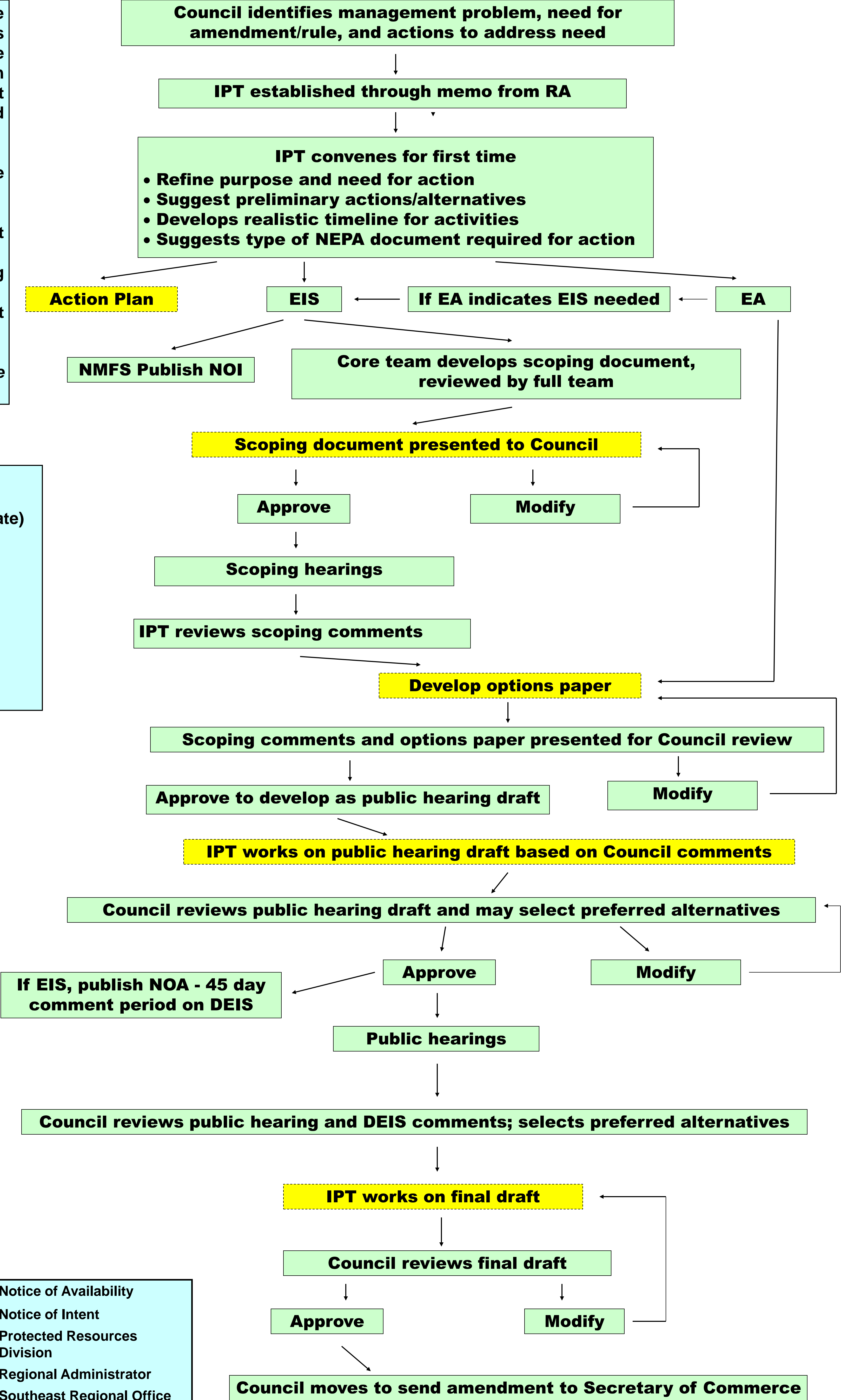
- Both SERO and the Council appoint IPT Team Leaders. The IPT Team Leaders are responsible for:
- An action plan that includes a timeline and specific staff responsibilities
 - Coordinate and draft data requests
 - Organize meetings
 - Serve as a conduit for comments
 - Develop ground rules on team interactions
 - Resolve team conflicts through consensus
 - Update team members on activities relevant to the action

IPT Core Team

The IPT Core Team is responsible for developing initial drafts of documents and writes the majority of the document sections. The Core Team is comprised of specific Council and NMFS staff biologists, economists, and sociologists with knowledge of the fishery. The Core Team often includes a member from GCSE to ensure legal requirements are being fulfilled.

List of Acronyms

Council	- Fishery Management Council	NOA	- Notice of Availability
DEIS	- Draft Environmental Impact Statement	NOI	- Notice of Intent
EA	- Environmental Assessment	PR	- Protected Resources Division
EIS	- Environmental Impact Statement	RA	- Regional Administrator
GCSE	- General Counsel Southeast Region	SERO	- Southeast Regional Office
IPT	- Interdisciplinary Plan Team	SF	- Sustainable Fisheries Division
NEPA	- National Environmental Policy Act	USCG	- United States Coast Guard



Decision Process for Integrated MSA-NEPA Actions

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